

Mr. HOYER. The House is not in order, and particularly the gentleman from Arizona is not in order.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. More than one Member is not in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HAYWORTH. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, is it appropriate for a Member of the House to impugn the motives or the conduct of another Member of the House?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Chair would respond that all Members should refrain from impugning the personal motives of other Members or engaging in personalities.

The Chair would also respond that the Chair is simply attempting to maintain order so that we can work our way through the amendments. If the Members would cooperate, that would be helpful.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

□ 2315

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, tarring with a broad brush is not worthy of this House. It has happened before, and it has demeaned the Constitution and the generosity of the Statue of Liberty that stands at her door.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that xenophobia is alive and well in some quarters of this Chamber.

This is not about foreign influence. Legal permanent residents are the sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers of United States citizens who obeyed the rules, followed the laws, and now are in this country and live a lawful life. They fight for the country, they die for the country, they contribute to the Nation's economy, and they pay taxes.

Today there are 20,000 legal permanent residents enlisted in the Armed Forces of the United States. They are protecting our airports, our seaports, our borders. They risk their lives daily in Afghanistan and other places around the world to protect us here at home. And they have the right to make contributions to causes and to candidates they support now under the law, a right that should not be taken away from them.

If they can die for this country, sir, they certainly have the right to choose who is going to send them there by the political process. But they can participate by giving contributions, and that should never, ever, be taken away.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 25 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, I am a veteran of the United States Air Force. I have worn the uniform of my country, and I still serve in the United States Air Force Reserve. And I would tell my friend

from New Jersey that every member of the United States military is prohibited by law from making political contributions.

When I was on active duty, I could not make political contributions. I was just as good a citizen then as I am now; but because of the very nature of my activity, I could not make such contributions, and I was no less of a citizen.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the chairman of the Hispanic Caucus.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, this evening it is a simple situation that we are facing here in the House. Each one of you is going to get one of these handouts this evening, and let me just read it to you.

It says, "He saved the lives of our American soldiers under fire in Vietnam. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor. He now heads the United States Selective Service System. Now we want to make him, and others like him, guilty of an unlawful act if they contribute to your campaign."

"Alfred Rascon, now director of the United States Selective Service, was a legal permanent resident when he served our country in Vietnam and earned the Congressional Medal of Honor."

That is what it gets down to. It gets down to fairness. It gets down to recognizing that legal permanent residents live here, work here, pay taxes; they serve in the military, they earn Medals of Honor, and we should be ashamed of ourselves if we pass this tonight.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), whose father was a giant in this institution on the rights of all people.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition. We really thought this was going to be the last amendment, because we thought they would save the worst for last; but it is not, and we are here at this moment, and I have about 30 seconds.

Who are you talking about? Who are these legal permanent residents that you refer to? Are they faceless members of a crowd? I will tell you who they are. They are people that are in this country by choice; who have a greater appreciation for the freedoms of our democracy than most people that are here today simply by accident of birth. They contribute the blood, sweat and tears to this country. They have as great a love as anyone that was ever born here.

If you come to San Antonio, Texas, you will know exactly what I am talking about. Do you want to know what we are talking about tonight? I will tell you. Look in the mirror. You will see the faces of your grandparents and your parents, your brothers and your sisters and your neighbors. That is who we are talking about tonight.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which would threaten the rights of minorities to participate in our Nation's political process.

Just as citizens do, legal permanent residents are required to register for the draft. Many are veterans. It has already been mentioned there are 20,000 legal immigrants serving voluntarily in the military, and that 20 percent of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients in U.S. wars have been legal immigrants or naturalized Americans.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to this being a poison pill amendment, it is also clearly unconstitutional. Federal courts have held that immigrants have the same first amendment rights as citizens. Let us not deny them that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, "Hundreds of thousands of immigrants take the oath of citizenship every year. Each has come not only to take, but to give. They come asking for a chance to work hard, support their families, and rise in the world. And together they make our Nation more, not less, American."

Those are not my words. Those are the words of George W. Bush, the President of the United States. He said that while he was flanked by two individuals who happened to have been former lawful permanent residents, his Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, and his Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mel Martinez, who are now U.S. citizens.

You seek to deprive people like Secretary Martinez and Secretary Chao, and my mother, the opportunity to participate in this process. Today we can argue on the floor of this House about the freedoms of this country, while people stand in Afghanistan to secure our freedom and stand at our airports to secure our freedom. Let us stand with them as they stand with us.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise also to convey my anger and disgust with what I have seen occur here tonight on this floor. Twenty percent of the constituents in my district are legal residents. Twenty-five percent of them have just become U.S. citizens.

The message that they hear every single day on the news is that the Republican Party, our friends from the other aisle, want them to be a part of America. But tonight you are sending them the wrong signal. You are driving a spear through their hearts, through their families, because they have worked hard, they have worked lawfully.

My parents came here as legal immigrants to see their daughter rise to become a Member of this House. So many